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House of Representatives

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NATIONAL AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE SAFETY ACT ENDORSED BY THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to urge you to cosponsor H.R. 1488, the National Amusement Park Ride Safety Act, a bill that has now been endorsed not only by the Consumer Federation of America, SafeKids, Inc., and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, but also by the American Academy of Pediatrics and ---

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and its member pediatricians dedicate their efforts and resources to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. The AAP has approximately 55,000 members in the United States, Canada and Latin America. Members include pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists.

Safe---

"It is very gratifying to see the nation's most prestigious pediatric medicine association endorse this effort to close the regulatory black hole at our nation's amusement parks," said Rep. Markey. "Children account for a disproportionate share of the injuries on amusement park rides, and it is common sense that we should provide a minimum level of federal oversight to an activity that has become increasingly dangerous as rides have gotten faster and more powerful."

In his letter to Rep. Markey, Dr. Louis Cooper, President of the AAP, wrote "As pediatricians we are particularly concerned about the safety of children and adolescents who enjoy amusement park rides. Injuries, including brain trauma, resulting from defective rides are potentially serious -- even life-threatening. A first step to prevention of these injuries is adopting stronger safety regulations that allow for better inspection and oversight of the fixed-rides."

The legislation would close the so-called "Roller Coaster Loophole" by removing a special exemption granted in 1981 that prevents the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) from providing to amusement park rides the standard preventative safety regulation it provides for every other consumer product. This would include the authority to investigate accidents, to develop and enforce action plans to correct defects, to require reports to the CPSC whenever a substantial hazard is identified, and to act as a national clearinghouse for accident and defect data.

A full copy of the AAP endorsement letter can be found at www.house.gov/markey.

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